

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A filter body, particularly for filtering particulates present in the exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

~~an assembly of~~ a plurality of one-piece blocks; and
seals assembled with said blocks, a nature of a material of said seals being different from a nature of a material of said blocks,

at least one of said blocks comprising a plurality of flow channels for said exhaust gases, each of said channels being bounded by a side wall, a plug and an opening terminating outwardly, wherein a first portion of the side wall of at least one of said channels, called the "reinforced channel", comprises a reinforcement compared to the rest of said side wall forming a second portion of said side wall, the ratio of the thickness of said first portion to the thickness of said second portion, in a transverse plane of section, being always between 1.1 and 3, the filter body comprising a plurality of adjacent reinforced channels arranged so that each said first portion of said reinforced channels form a continuous reinforcing partition, a thickness of said reinforcing partition is substantially constant.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 19, wherein said reinforced channels of said group extend to the periphery of said block.

21. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said first portion comprises an external face in contact with the exterior of said block.

22. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 19, wherein said reinforced channels of said group are arranged so that said reinforcing partition overlaps a longitudinal edge of said filter block.

23. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 19, wherein said group of reinforced channels comprises all the peripheral channels of said block so that said reinforcing partition surrounds said block, preferably so that said reinforcing partition is at the external surface of said block.

24. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ratio is constant irrespective of the transverse plane of section considered.

25. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said reinforcement is substantially constant in any longitudinal plane of section of said block.

26. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 19, wherein said reinforcement is substantially constant for all the reinforced channels of said group in any transverse plane of section and/or in any longitudinal plane.

27. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18 wherein said ratio R is between 1.9 and 2.1, preferably is substantially equal to 2.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) An extrusion die conformed to form, by extrusion of a ceramic material, a structure provided with channels suitable for the fabrication of a filter block as claimed in claim 18, said structure comprising said reinforcement.

30. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a block as claimed in claim 18, comprising the following successive steps:

a) extrusion of a ceramic material through a die having a structure provided with channels suitable for the fabrication of a filter block, said structure comprising said reinforcement, to form a porous honeycomb structure, and

~~b) application of a reinforcement of a material, identical or different from said ceramic material, to at least part of the external surface of said porous structure, and~~

~~c) drying and sintering of said porous structure to obtain~~

a said filter block.

31-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) A method for fabricating a filter body by assembling a plurality of filter blocks, wherein at least one of said filter blocks is fabricated by a method as claimed in claim 30.

35. (previously presented) A filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said block presents the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.

36. (previously presented) A filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein the assembled blocks have said reinforcement along their whole external surface.

37. (cancelled)

38. (new) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein the reinforcement of the reinforcing partition is arranged so that, in any transverse plane of section, a flow cross section of a reinforced inlet channel and a reinforced outlet channel are substantially identical to those of the other inlet and outlet channels.

